

§ 102.170

(b) *Past-due legally enforceable debt* is a delinquent debt administratively determined to be valid, whereon no more than 10 years have lapsed since the date of delinquency (unless reduced to judgment), and which is not discharged under a bankruptcy proceeding or subject to an automatic stay under 11 U.S.C. 362.

(c) *Individual* refers to a taxpayer identified by a social security number (SSN).

(d) *Business entity* refers to an entity identified by an employer identification number (EIN).

(e) *Taxpayer mailing address* refers to the debtor's current mailing address as obtained from IRS.

(f) *Memorandum of understanding* refers to the agreement between the Agency and IRS outlining the duties and responsibilities of the respective parties for participation in the tax refund offset program.

§ 102.170 Agency referral to IRS for tax refund effect; Agency responsibilities.

(a) As authorized and required by law, the Agency may refer past-due legally enforceable debts to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for collection by offset from any overpayment of income tax that may otherwise be due to be refunded to the taxpayer. By the date and in the manner prescribed by the IRS, the Agency may refer for tax refund offset past-due legally enforceable debts. Such referrals shall include the following information:

(1) Whether the debtor is an individual or a business entity;

(2) The name and taxpayer identification number (SSN or EIN) of the debtor who is responsible for the debt;

(3) The amount of the debt;

(4) A designation that the Agency is referring the debt and (as appropriate) Agency account identifiers.

(b) The Agency will ensure the confidentiality of taxpayer information as required by IRS in its Tax Information Security Guidelines.

(c) As necessary, the Agency will submit updated information at the times and in the manner prescribed by IRS to reflect changes in the status of debts or debtors referred for tax refund offset.

29 CFR Ch. I (7-1-10 Edition)

(d) Amounts erroneously offset will be refunded by the Agency or IRS in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding.

§ 102.171 Cost shifting.

Costs incurred by the Agency in connection with referral of debts for tax refund offset will be added to the debt and thus increase the amount of the offset. Such costs may include administrative costs and attorneys fees.

§ 102.172 Minimum referral amount.

The minimum amount of a debt otherwise eligible for Agency referral to the IRS is \$25 for individual debtors and \$100 for business debtors. The amount referred may include the principal portion of the debt, as well as any accrued interest, penalties, administrative cost charges, and attorney fees.

§ 102.173 Relation to other collection efforts.

(a) Tax refund offset is intended to be an administrative collection remedy to be utilized consistent with IRS requirements for participation in the program, and the costs and benefits of pursuing alternative remedies when the tax refund offset program is readily available. To the extent practical, the requirements of the program will be met by merging IRS requirements into the Agency's overall requirements for delinquent debt collection.

(b) As appropriate, debts of an individual debtor of \$100 or more will be reported to a consumer or commercial credit reporting agency before referral for tax refund offset.

(c) Debts owed by individuals will be screened for administrative offset potential using the most current information reasonably available to the Agency, and will not be referred for tax refund offset where administrative offset potential is found to exist.

§ 102.174 Debtor notification.

(a) The Agency shall send appropriate written demand to the debtor in terms which inform the debtor of the consequences of failure to repay debts or claims owed the Board.

(b) Before the Agency refers a debt to IRS for tax refund offset, it will make